

Claim Amendments

1 1. (Currently amended) A method of treating molten
2 steel under vacuum which comprises the steps of:

3 a) applying a degassing vacuum to molten steel; and

4 b) feeding pieces of a porous degasification-promoting
5 solid into the molten steel with a size of 2 to 50 mm at least in a
6 starting phase of the degasification.

1 2. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 degasification solid is fed to the molten steel in the first 5
3 minutes of the degasification thereof.

1 3. (Original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the
2 degasification solid is fed continuously at a feed rate of 20 to
3 100 kg/min while the molten steel is under a pressure < 2 mbar.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

1 5. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[4]]
2 3 wherein the degasification solid is a granulate.

1 6. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[4]]
2 3 wherein the degasification solid is metal, ore or slag or a

3 combination thereof.

1 7. (Original) The method defined in claim 6 wherein the
2 ore is iron ore.

1 8. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim
2 [[4]] 3 wherein the degasification solid is stored in a vacuum
3 bunker and is metered into the molten steel.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 8
2 wherein the degasification solid is metered into the molten steel
3 by a vibrating trough ~~or a cell wheel gate~~.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim
2 [[4]] 3 wherein, for a circulating steel melt the solid is blown
3 into the melt by nozzles opening below the surface of the melt.

1 11. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim
2 [[4]] 3 wherein, for a circulating melt or a load stand
3 degasification, the solid is blown into the melt by lances
4 extending into the melt.